

Editor's Note

The above paper by Johnson and Quinter is a comment on the papers of Ehrlich & Murphy and Miller & Brown regarding the recent *Catalogue/Checklist of the Butterflies of America north of Mexico* of the latter authors. Although discussion papers such as this are not usually refereed here, two major points appear in order. The first is the use of the word "kinship" to denote a potpourri of meanings, including "natural groupings", "phylogenetic relationship", "nature of relatedness", "similarity", and "clades". In biology (genetics) kinship correctly refers to the direct sharing of genes as in a genealogy, not properly in a phylogenetic context. The second point concerns the systematic analysis given in Table 2, data for which have not been generally available for critical consideration.

Note

Abnormal Chrysalis of *Papilio zelicaon* (Papilionidae)

The author has collected butterflies and moths in the Santa Barbara region for a quarter of a century, and during this long period of time has reared a number of endemic species. *Papilio zelicaon* (Lucas) is a common Swallowtail in this region and thousands of specimens have been reared to maturity over the years.

When raising such a great number of larvae of any one species, one naturally expects to obtain an occasional aberrant specimen. In the autumn of 1982 a couple hundred larvae of this species were raised, for later sale as pupae. One chrysalis of *Papilio zelicaon* was formed, and was recognized as being quite anomalous. The wings on one side of the pupae were fully developed, and totally absent on the other side (Fig. 1). If the butterfly had successfully emerged and spread its wings, we would have seen a freak specimen with normal wings on the left hand side, and no wings on the right hand side. Unfortunately, the insect died in the pupal stage. The chrysalis has been preserved in ethyl alcohol, and incorporated into my collection.

There is value in documenting such freaks in the journals of science. A good perspective on normalcy-abnormalcy in any given species is needed if we ever hope to unravel the underlying genetic reasons for such mistakes.

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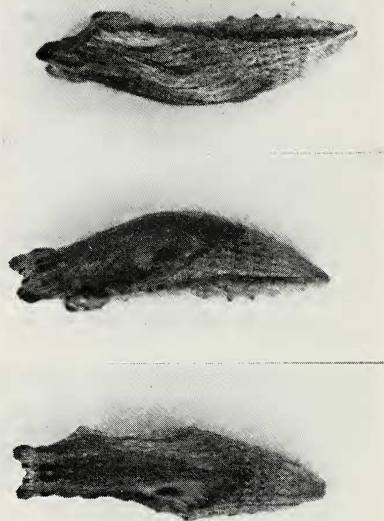


Fig. 1. **Upper**—normal side
Middle—wing missing
Lower—ventral view showing normal wing above and missing wing below